dispensary where services are rendered on payment of charges and also rendered free of charge to other persons availing such services would fall within the ambit of the expression 'service' as defined in Section 2(1) (o) of the Act irrespactive of the fact that the service is rendered free of charge to persons who do not pay for such service. Free service would also be "service" and the recipient a "consumer" udner the Act.

(11) Service rendered by a medical practitioner or hospital/nursing home cannot be regarded as service rendered free of charge, if the person availaing the service has taken an insurance policy for medical care whereunder the charges for consultation, diagnosis and medical treatment are borne by the insurance company and such service would fall within the ambit of 'service' as defined in Section 2(1) (o) of the Act.

(12) Similarly, where, as a part of the conditions of service, the employer bears the expenses of medical treatment of an employee and his family members dependent on him, the service rendered to such an employee and his family members by a medical practitioner or a hospital/nursing home would not be free of charge and would constitute service under Section 2(1) (o) of the Act.

Examination Days Fixed By Kashmir Universitty

547. SHRI JAGMOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the date-Sheet promulgated by the Kashmir University for its examination, Fridays had been kept off while some papers had been fixed for Sundays;

(b) whether some papers of the examination had been fixed for 2nd October, the birthday of Mahatama Gandhi, which is a national holiday; and

(c) whether any suggestion was made to the University by the State Government or by the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) the University of Kashmir, is situated adjacent to the Hazratbal Shrine, where there are large congregations of pilgrims on Fridays to offer prayers. In order to avoid any law & order situation, no examinations are generally conducted of Fridays.

(b) Due to oversight the University had fixed seme papers on October 2, 1995. But as soon as this was noticed, these were postponed and fixed for 28 October, 1995. No examination was held on 2nd October, 1995.

(c) No, Sir.

Central Assistance to J&K

548. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to over of the R.B.I. Bulletin, per capita central assistance given to Jammu and Kashmir during 1993-94 was Rs. 2,291 as against Rs. 192 to Bihar, Rs. 223 to Tamil Nadu, Rs. 304 to Rajasthan and Rs. 331 to U.P.;

(b) on what basis this per capita Central assistance to Jammu and Kashmir was decided;

(c) since when the Central assistance at this level is being disbursed to Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) whether Government propose to reduce this level of Central assistance to Jammu and Kashmir and if so, when and what is the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) R.B.I. has not published data

relating to per capita Central Assistance to State Governments.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Indian Navy

549. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the report 'Jane's Fighting Ship' appearing in "The Statesmen", dated the 25th August, 1995 stating that the "Indian Navy is in decline" and the Indian Express's report, dated the 10th September, 1995 that "Budget cuts leave only 40 per cent of Navy Seaworthy", and

(b) what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There had been some slowing down in naval procurements due to the resource crunch. Several acquisitions have been approved/made recently to maintain the force level and enhance operational capability. These include a Training Ship from the UK and a Tanker from Russia and a Sail Training Ship, four Fast Attack Crafts, two Missile Boats and 10 Dornier aircraft from indigenous sources. In addition, some major proposals relating to acquisition of ships, submarines and aircraft are in the pipelines.

The non-availability of Russian spares followed by the disintegration of the ersthwile USSR had also affected the Navy. With the new found access to the Original Equipment Manufactures, many of the spares requirements of the Navy have been met.

Construction Janta Houses in Punjab

550. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Janta houses conctructed for the weaker sections of the society in Punjab during the last three years, district-wise?

(b) the Central assistance given by Government to Punjab during this period;

(c) the steps taken by Government to construct more Janta houses for the aforesaid people in Punjab; and

(d) the assistance given by Government both as grants and loan for the purpose during the current financial year;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DEPARTMENT OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION) (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): (a) It has been reported by the Government of Punjab that there is no Janta Housing Scheme in the State of Punjab. However, houses have been constructed for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the society, which constitute families with a monthly family income upto Rs. 1250/-, with loan assistance from HUDCO.

The year-wise, district-wise details of EWS houses constructed during the last three years are given below:

District	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Ludhiana	2364	—	—
Patiala	—	421	—
Ropar	—	—	434

(b) and (d) No Central assistance is given to State Governments for construction of houses in urban areas.

(c) Housing being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the State Government to formulate and execute housing schemes for various sections of the society, according to the priorities of the State Government and available resources.